

In re Patent Application of:
COSTIN ET AL.
Serial No. 10/091,610
Filing Date: March 5, 2002 /

In the Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) The interchangeable fitment system according to claim 21, wherein said the flange for the first fitment apparatus has an opening for forming a channel with the opening in the first projection assembly. further comprises+
~~a flange,~~
~~at least one projection assembly, wherein said projection assembly is attached to said flange; and~~
~~at least one engagement structure mounted on said projection assembly for detachably securing said first fitment apparatus to said interface.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The interchangeable fitment system according to claim 21 claim 9, wherein said the flange for the second fitment apparatus has an opening for forming a channel with the opening in the second projection assembly. further comprises+
~~a flange,~~
~~at least one projection assembly, wherein said projection assembly is attached to said flange; and~~
~~at least one engagement structure mounted on said projection assembly for detachably securing said second fitment apparatus to said interface.~~

Claims 11-18 (Cancelled).

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19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein said the flange for the providing a first fitment apparatus has an opening for forming a channel with the opening in the first projection assembly. step further comprises the steps of:

~~providing a flange;~~
~~providing at least one projection assembly;~~
~~attaching the projection assembly to the flange;~~ and
~~mounting at least one engagement structure on the projection assembly for detachably securing the first fitment apparatus to the interfacee.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22 ~~claim 19~~, wherein said the flange for the providing a second fitment apparatus has an opening for forming a channel with the opening in the second projection assembly. step further comprises the steps of:

~~providing a flange;~~
~~providing at least one projection assembly;~~
~~attaching the projection assembly to the flange;~~ and
~~mounting at least one engagement structure on the projection assembly for detachably securing the second fitment apparatus to the interfacee.~~

21. (Currently Amended) An interchangeable fitment system, comprising:

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a shipping container having an opening therein;
a first fitment apparatus and a second fitment
apparatus each having equal outer perimeters; and
an a loading/unloading interface detachably secured
engaged to the opening in the shipping container, wherein the
interface has and having a notch with having predetermined
dimensions corresponding to the outer perimeters for
interchangeably receiving the first and second fitment
apparatuses; apparatus and the second fitment apparatus,
the first fitment apparatus comprising a flange, a
first projection assembly coupled to the flange and a plurality
of spring-loaded snaps spaced around the first projection
assembly for detachably securing to the loading/unloading
interface, the first projection assembly having an opening for
interfacing with a first size fluid flow device;
the second fitment apparatus comprising a flange, a
second projection assembly coupled to the flange and a plurality
of spring-loaded snaps spaced around the second projection
assembly for detachably securing to the loading/unloading
interface, the second projection assembly having an opening for
interfacing with a second size fluid flow device;
wherein an outer perimeter of the first fitment
apparatus is equal to an outer perimeter of the second fitment
apparatus and corresponds to the predetermined dimensions of the
notch, the first fitment apparatus having a projection including
a first opening, and a first fitment projection outer perimeter,

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~~and the second fitment apparatus having a projection including a second opening, and a second fitment projection outer perimeter, wherein the outer perimeter of the first fitment projection is not equal to the outer perimeter of the second fitment projection, and~~

~~wherein the first and second fitment apparatuses apparatus and the second fitment apparatus are having different size openings in the first and second projection assemblies for respectively interfacing with different size fluid flow devices for loading/unloading the shipping container, the first and second fitment apparatuses being interchangeably receivable in the loading/unloading interface via the plurality of spring-loaded snaps based on selection of the first or second size fluid flow device. such that the first and second fitment apparatuses may be exchanged with one another for connection of the respective first fitment projection or second fitment projection to differently sized drainage hoses or pipes for emptying the shipping container through the first opening or the second opening.~~

22. (Currently Amended) A method for of providing an interchangeable fitment system for a shipping container, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the a shipping container with an opening therein;

providing a first fitment apparatus and a second fitment apparatus each having equal outer perimeters;

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detachably securing a loading/unloading interface to the opening in the shipping container, the loading/unloading interface having a notch with dimensions corresponding to the outer perimeters for interchangeably receiving the first and second fitment apparatuses;

the first fitment apparatus comprising a flange, a first projection assembly coupled to the flange and a plurality of spring-loaded snaps spaced around the first projection assembly for detachably securing to the loading/unloading interface, the first projection assembly having an opening for interfacing with a first size fluid flow device;

the second fitment apparatus comprising a flange, a second projection assembly coupled to the flange and a plurality of spring-loaded snaps spaced around the second projection assembly for detachably securing to the loading/unloading interface, the second projection assembly having an opening for interfacing with a second size fluid flow device;

providing an interface, wherein the interface has a notch having predetermined dimensions;

detachably securing the interface to the container;

providing a first fitment apparatus having a projection including a first opening, and a first fitment projection outer perimeter;

providing a second fitment apparatus having a projection including a second opening, and a first fitment projection outer perimeter;

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~~providing a second fitment apparatus having a projection including a second opening, and a second fitment projection outer perimeter,~~

~~wherein the outer perimeter of the first fitment projection is not equal to the outer perimeter of the second fitment projection, and wherein outer perimeter of the first fitment apparatus is equal to an outer perimeter of the second fitment apparatus and corresponds to the predetermined dimensions of the notch; and~~

the first and second fitment apparatuses having different size openings in the first and second projection assemblies for respectively interfacing with different size fluid flow devices for loading/unloading the shipping container; and

interchangeably connecting the first fitment apparatus and the second fitment apparatus to the loading/unloading interface via the respective plurality of spring-loaded snaps based on selection of the first or second size fluid flow device, such that the first and second fitment apparatuses may be exchanged with one another for connection of the respective first fitment projection or second fitment projection to differently sized drainage hoses or pipes for emptying the shipping container through the first opening or the second opening.